

Quick Strokes

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1983 FALL

Morton announces accelerated keyboard proficiency training

The distinguished educator Robert E. Morton, of Chicago, specializing in typing training, announces a new name for his company, henceforth to be known as Morton Communication Systems International. The MCSI instructional materials have been in use both experimentally and commercially for about ten years, with gratifying outcomes.

Quick Strokes has seen samples of MCSI promotional literature and is pleased to report that Morton and his associates plan a brisk marketing campaign for their products and services. Morton himself understands and appreciates the advantages of the Dvorak arrangement, at least in its ANSI standard variant. He was an active participant in the work of X4DSK, the subcommittee that drafted the X4.22 standard.

The MCSI materials contain lessons for both standard arrangements, the conventional X4.23 and the alternate X4.22. Materials for the two one-hand arrangements is also offered.

They are adaptable to elementary and secondary classroom use, and to on-site operator brushing up or retraining. For group instruction, although the instructor is relieved of much detail, there is still some administrative work that the instructor needs pretraining for.

Heritage Software to release SmartKey II

Heritage Software, a Los Angeles-based software publisher, released the new SmartKey II on August 8 for the CP/M and PC compatible markets.

Versions for CP/M-86, CP/M Plus, and standard MS-DOS are being tested and will be available shortly.

SmartKey is a background utility program that allows a user to customize a microcomputer keyboard to reflect the needs of software. All keys may be redefined at will to become other characters, software commands, or whole words, phrases or boilerplated text.

Definitions may be changed at any time. They can then be saved to a disk file for reuse.

Features of the new SmartKey II include instantaneous installation of special function keys; an expanded buffer able to handle 3,750 definitions at a time; a text compiler that can reduce entire text files to a single keystroke; and a built-in editor for complex reorganization of key definitions.

SmartKey II is accompanied by a manual written for both novice and experienced users. It is compatible with all known applications software, including WordStar and dBase II.

SmartPrint, an upgrade to SmartKey, enables users to implement all of a printer's built-in functions and character sets.

The retail price of SmartKey II is \$89.

The original SmartKey is still available for \$60. The SmartPrint option for both versions of SmartKey costs \$35.

These programs may be purchased from retail dealers or from Heritage Software, 2130 South Vermont Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90007.

Bibliographic note

Digital Design, July 1983, page 17, Coville, "Dvorak Keyboard Endorsed by ANSI". Wang, Exxon, Olivetti, and Apple are mentioned as suppliers. The article follows the release from the American National Standards Institute in acknowledging the late Captain and Professor August Dvorak as the originator of an arrangement of which the ANSI standard is a variant. The Dvorak keyboard that is shown in the IBM salesman's catalog differs somewhat from the standard, although the difference is so slight that an operator who knows one is justified in claiming to know both.

Dvorak federation headquarters release

Keytronics, the largest makers of custom keyboards in the world, will begin producing the Dvorak arrangement for the IBM PC in 1983 November.

CCI, a Rochester-based company, is and has been selling the Dvorak arrangement (alphabetic without punctuation) to the Bell System, now AT&T, for use in Directory Assistance — that is, the 555-1212 number. The CCI keyboard is used in New England Telephone, Southwestern Telephone, Mountain States Telephone, and Pennsylvania Telephone. There are in excess of 9,000 in use at this time. This has been documented to me by an official at CCI.

We visited Mrs. Dvorak in mid-July. We spent five hours talking with this remarkable woman about the amazing emergence of the keyboard. She looks wonderful and sends her love to the Dvorak community.

We also saw Ernestine Gilbreth Carey, who is writing a book about the time and motion studies of her parents, Frank and Lillian. You all may remember the *Cheaper by the Dozen* movie. Ernestine was coauthor of the book with her brother Frank. Mrs. Carey is interested in any evidences regarding the use of time and motion and the Dvorak keyboard. Her address is Mrs. Charles Carey, 6148 East Lincoln Drive, Paradise Valley, Arizona 85253.

Newspaper coverage has been fairly active the last quarter. *USA Today*, the *Christian Science Monitor*, the *Boston Globe*, the *Boston Business Journal*, just to name a few. As for radio spots, we have had calls from all over the U.S. for short spots on the radio speaking about the keyboard. This seems to come as a result of the CBS Nightly News, WPIX in New York, which went nationwide, the spot on "In the News" on Saturday morning CBS cartoon time and the CNN news spot. These are all helping to get the word of Dvorak out into the public.

We will take an exhibit to the New England Business Association Show as well as to the New Hampshire Business Educators' Association. Both these events occur in early fall.

The Dvorak International Federation now has a roving exhibit. We have sent out feelers regarding this display over the computer system at Harvard. This is thanks to John Ramsdel, Ph.D., at Harvard. This exhibit is a continuation of the display which Dick Land showed in April and May at Harvard. He gave the display to us; we have added to it and will go on the road whenever we are asked. If you want to see the exhibit call DIF, 802-247-6020, or write DIF, 11 Pearl St., Brandon, Vermont 05733.

Source for Dvorak elements, standard and variant

According to a release from R. J. Laws, 307 East 17th St., Santa Ana, California 92706-2896, he is offering typing elements to fit IBM Selectric typewriters in the exact arrangement of the ANSI X4.22-1983 standard as well as in a variant which is called the Classic Dvorak. The standard element is supplied in a 12-pitch (elite) face only. The Classic variant is supplied in one 12-pitch and one 10-pitch face.

The two arrangements differ in the pairing of some characters and in one entire row, the digit row. For personal typing, CD appears to be as advantageous as the X4.22 standard or slightly better. For vocational keyboard work, job prospects appear better with the X4.22 ANSI standard.

Laws has announced a lower price for elements in either style than Quick Strokes has quoted for the CD elements.

Kleper, Michael L., Dvorak: The New Keyboard Layout Standard

Published by Graphic Dimensions, Pittsford, New York, and copyrighted in 1983, the pamphlet whose title appears above is a welcome addition to the bibliography. The source is Dvorak International Federation, 11 Pearl St., Brandon, Vermont 05733.

This is library research rather than laboratory or field research. Kleper has, however, dug deeper than some recent writers on this subject do.

He quotes, with credit, from Dvorak, August, "There Is a Better Typewriter Keyboard" and from other papers by that author that are not so often cited. He has also consulted papers by D. D. W. Davis and by Yamada-Hisao.

Message to S. R. Winter

Gary C. S. Bewell, of Calgary, Alberta, writes, "I am using the Smartkey program with my Kaypro II computer. Smartkey came with a Dvorak definition file. The file, however, has a couple of key assignment errors, but they are very simple to correct."

To convert the IBM personal computer

Seasoned Systems, of Chapel Hill, North Carolina, advertises a conversion method for the IBM PC called SureStroke. See PC World for 1983 September, page 119. The address for SS is P. O. Box 3036, and the zip is 27514.

DVORAK: THE NEW KEYBOARD LAYOUT STANDARD by Michael L. Kleper, this booklet covers the keyboard from the inception, the research and the patent to the ANSI standard. This book is available at \$5.00 from the publisher Graphic Dimensions, 8 Frederick Road, Pittsford, NY 14534 or from DIF at 11 Pearl Street, Brandon, Vermont 05733.

THE PARKINSON REPRINT — Eight pages from Computers and Automation for 1972 November, by the late R. S. Parkinson, titled "The Dvorak Simplified Keyboard: Forty Years of Frustration," tellingly illustrated. At Quick Strokes, P.O. Box 643, West Sacramento, CA 95691, \$2.50 or, in California \$2.65.

FOR SALE: Almost new SCM Coronomatic 2200 with ASK Dvorak keyboard. Carrying case and short ASK typing course manual included, \$300 or best offer. Katie Collins (219-234-0131 or P.O. Box 4123, South Bend, IN 46634).

SMITH-CORONA'S SHORT COURSE for the American Simplified Keyboard (ASK) Typewriter, by August Dvorak, now in stock at Quick Strokes, P.O. Box 643, West Sacramento, CA 95691. Per copy \$5 postage paid. In California, please add 30 cents sales tax. Conforms to AN Standard X4.22.

IN MINT CONDITION — A few copies of the seminal work *Typewriting Behavior*, by Dvorak, Dealey, Merrick, and Ford. Hard cover, 521 pages including index and appendix, it comprises the team's report to the Carnegie Foundation on typing teaching, typing learning, and machine design. \$30 at Quick Strokes, P.O. Box 643, West Sacramento, CA. To California addresses, \$31.80.

STARTING MANUAL FOR ALTERNATIVE KEYING — Titled *Simplified Keyboard Supplement* and written by the late, great August Dvorak and others, it contains Lessons 1 to 5 and 16 to 19. It merges with any full-length typing manual or with practice material of your choice. Three dollars at Quick Strokes, P.O. Box 643, West Sacramento, CA 95691. In California, add 18¢ tax.

DVORAK SELECTRIC ELEMENT — Please specify pica or elite type; please specify whether for a Selectric, or a Selectric I or II, or a Selectric III. Arrangement is close to the classic Dvorak, digits reading, left to right 7, 5, 3, 1, 9 for the left hand, and right to left, 8, 6, 4, 2, 0 for the right hand. \$111 dollars at Quick Strokes, P.O. Box 643, West Sacramento, CA 95691, telephone 916-446-3377. A starting manual, the *Simplified Keyboard Supplement*, is included. Two sheets of 77 half-inch round press-on labels with the alphabet, extra vowels, punctuation, and digits are included. Pairing of digits and special symbols corresponds to the Dvorak Selectric arrangement. Delivery in two weeks after receipt of order and payment. In California, add 6% tax.

Vane link and vane in Selectrics discussed

Willie Flores, of Carrizo Springs, Texas, queries, "Are a 'vane link' and a 'universal vane' the same thing?"

The rotation and tilt of the Selectric typing element are controlled by the movement of five transverse rods, called bails. They move, none, one, any two, three, four, or five at a time according to the combinations of downward projections on 44 pieces of flat bar called interposers. The interposers are impelled by the keylevers but are not linked to them. The keybuttons can be removed and replaced in another pattern without heat or solder. So can the interposers. This procedure is what we mean by conversion by rearrangement of interposers.

Access to interposers is gained by removing the top cover and the platen, fanning the keylevers back, and removing the bell crank shaft, which is a transverse rod that lies below the keylevers and above the interposers. The adjustment on it is not delicate.

The interposers and the bails move forward — one interposer at a stroke moving, any number of bails moving at the same stroke, forward, toward the operator.

The impression surfaces on all the alphabetic characters, capital and lower case, and the digits are so similar that differences in impact are not noticeable. Not so for the punctuation (sharp characters). This is where the vane comes in. It is underneath the spacebar, which is removable like the keybuttons. Four upward-projecting tabs are pushed forward by the front ends of the interposers that correspond to the sharp characters. These tabs are mounted on a horizontal pivot rod with its right-end bracket on the right and its left-end bracket under the middle of the spacebar.

The vane link is a slim rod about two inches long, with a T hook on one end and a J hook on the other. You can find it by looking down into the bottom cover on the right side. To put the vane out of commission, remove the link and tape it to the inside of the bottom cover, in case you need it again. With that link in place, the W, the V, the S, and the 8 will be pale. Without it, they print like the rest of the blunt characters.

Installing the universal vane is a job for a skilled typewriter service worker. That vane goes all the way across and has 44 tabs which are bendable. Those on the conventional vane are not. Installing the left bracket is the problem. Replacing keybuttons calls for skill also.

In some Selectric models, the vane linkage may be different from what I have described, but the place to look for it would be the same.

Sentiments of a college administrator

Ethyl Hanson, faculty member at Portland Community College, remarks that at the moment she is on the inactive list in all organizations and continues, "I agree with Chris — DIF is surely the one most worthy of support. I find what is going on terribly exciting."

FOR SALE — Elderly Underwood Noiseless portable with classic Dvorak keyboard, including the numbers. Has sturdy wood carrying case and is solidly built. \$40 / BO, cash and carry. Glenn F. Baker, 29 Prescott Ct., No. 3, San Francisco, CA 94133.

FOR RENT — Motion picture film, "Motion Study of the Dvorak Simplified Keyboard," 16mm., black and white, silent, 20 minutes. Old but good. View it more than once, the better to appreciate the difference in hand position. \$10 per week. Order from Quick Strokes, Box 643, West Sacramento, CA 95691.

FOR RENT — Videotape, "Typewriters: Dvorak Made a Better One," narrated by Albert C. Kolb, Carmel (California) Middle School, time 14 minutes and 19 seconds. Narrator and secretary demonstrate on interesting and innovative alternative to the standard keyboard. Motivates student interest in the typewriter and in developing skills. In UCA 30 cassette. Per week \$10. Shipping weight 1 lb., 12 ozs. Quick Strokes, Box 643, West Sacramento, CA 95691.



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Dekotek surveys 10,000 companies in the microcomputer industry

A directory of firms that are engaged in the microcomputer industry, titled *1984 Microcomputer Market Place*, is available from Dekotek, Inc., 2248 Broadway, New York, NY 10024. It is 750 pages long and contains 10,000 entries. It is comprehensive, with many in-depth company profiles and with cross-indexing which should be helpful.

Tampa contact with the Dvorak federation

F. Patricia Toloday, telephone 813-626-7608, is serving as a contact point for the Dvorak International Federation.

Vertex Systems, Los Angeles, offers keyboard rearrangement program

Besides the Seasoned Systems method for converting computer keyboards to the better arrangement — it is called Surestroke — one more such program is offered by Vertex Systems, 7950 W. Fourth St., Los Angeles, CA 90048. Its name is Keyswapper.

This news comes from Dave Pressman, attorney, of 1237 Chestnut St., San Francisco, CA 94109. Mr. Pressman is serving as a contact point for members of the Dvorak International Federation and other seekers after enlightenment. You may call him at 415-776-3960.

Keyswapper is marketed by the IBM corporation along with the IBM PC computer, according to a Dvorak-skilled editor at ABC-Clio Press, Santa Barbara, California.

For whom the cash register tolls

By Mark T. Egan, Takoma Park, MD

Employed as a production typist, I am paid by the page and, hence, have a clear interest in a more efficient, that is, faster, keyboard. Specifically, I am interested in any information that might lead me to either a hardware or a software "fix" to convert the Wang systems I work on (WPS-20 and VS-90) to either a DSK or an ASK board.

This could be an expensive, and is sure to be a difficult, project for me. Hence, I should like to confirm the productivity improvement to be gained from the Dvorak keyboard.

Hourly wages are not universal even in unionized shops. The London Typographical Union, for instance, has a Scale of Prices which is a piecework scale, by the galley, inch, and line, graduated according to whether the instructions are for straight matter, agate, or short-measure composition.

Peer pressure puts somewhat of a damper on the fire of able, ambitious operators where the wage is hourly. Not so where the pay is piecework or its equivalent, as in the cases of verbatim reporters who do their own transcription and people who do business as public stenographers.

It would be in the employer's interest to advance the cost of equipment modification. Except in rare cases, the greater the in-and-output from each station, the greater the employer's profit.

CD, the Classic Dvorak arrangement, has its partisans

According to Tom D'Esposito, general manager at the Fremont Payne Printing Co., located on Canal Street in New York, the Varityper Corporation is easy to deal with, at least as regards equipment for typographic composition with the Classic Dvorak arrangement on the keyboard.

In his order to Varityper, D'Esposito has clung to the locations of forty-two keys as those keys are shown in the diagram in Dvorak et al., *Typewriting Behavior*. The difference from the ANSI X4.22 standard is that all the punctuation except hyphen is on the left, and the digits are arranged with the low-value, high frequency zero, 1, 2, and 3 assigned to the forefingers. For typographic composition, of course, additional characters are required.

Operators who, like D'Esposito, have not followed or anticipated the standard, swear by CD. He, for one, is capable of a hundred errorless words per minute on a self-administered five-minute test. He touch-types the digits without hesitation, without losing rhythm, and with the same accuracy as on the alphabetic characters.

Query about the Brother EP-20

D. P. Harrington, of 940 Stanford Ave., Apt. 424, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808, wonders if there is any way to convert the Brother EP-20 personal printer to the rational arrangement.

From the location of the conventional legends in the upper left corner of the keytops, we judge that there must be, indeed, some way to do it. If any reader has queried the Brother public relations department on this and received a reply, please pass the word to Mr. Harrington, with a copy, of course, to *Quick Strokes*, P.O. Box 643, West Sacramento, California 95691.

Signs of a buyers' market in computers and printers

An Associated Press dispatch of 1983 May 26 calls attention to Radio Shack's announcement of a home computer at \$120 and to Smith-Corona's broadened line of typewriters with the feature of service as a printer for computers. The latter — at least some of them — also possess the feature that many users are buying computers for, namely, correction before commitment to paper.

A typewriter with this feature still is less costly than the combination of computer and printer.

The alert reader who forwards the clipping is Marie Parkinson of Sunnyvale, California.

Where the connection between keyboard and font is by cable, there should always be room for an adapter to rearrange the characters. A competent electrician can wire up such an adapter. If you find an exceptional model where this is impossible, please let *Quick Strokes* know.

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Joe Gamble on Dvorak keying and standardization

Titled "The Standard Computer Keyboard Myth", a paper by Joe Gamble, of Beaverton, Oregon, is on hand at *Quick Strokes*, Postoffice Box 643, West Sacramento, California 95691. It is so thoughtful and so informative that we can only regret our scarcity of space in QS pages.

Gamble has for years operated a Tektronix terminal with a Dvorak arrangement of characters, on the job at Tektronix Beaverton.

With a cover, this paper comprises five sheets, which *Quick Strokes* offers in photocopy at \$2.50, plus, in California, fifteen cents' sales tax. Postage and handling are included. Page three shows a photo of the Gamble Textronix terminal, which will probably not photocopy very well.

Ten models of Tektronix terminals that are easily programmable for Dvorak are listed.

Gamble sees work ahead for X3V1, the American National Standards subcommittee on character arrangements. He does, indeed, have a point there.

Bibliographic notes

Commodore Microcomputing, Vol. IV, No. 4, issue 25, note on Dvorak keyboard for the Commodore 64 — the program works but needs editing.

USA Today, 1983 July 14, Kevin Anderson, "Speedier keyboard picking up fast-fingered fans."

Microsystems, 1983 April, Chris Terry, "A Garland of Utilities," page 88. (Ziff-Davis, One Park Ave., New York, NY 10016.) Thanks to B. J. Welch, Bedford, Massachusetts.

Sunday Oregonian, 1983 July 3, B8 2M, Peggy Sand, "System gives woman fastest fingers." Blackburn at the keyboard, photodiagram.

Salem (Oregon) *Statesman-Journal*, 1983 June 23, page 9A, Andrew Hartley, "Salem woman speedtyping featured on TV."

Quick Strokes

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Philip Davis, editor and publisher

Bids by mail only are invited

J. Sheehan, S.J., 1404 West Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53233, has two typewriters for sale. One is a Smith-Corona Classix 12 with ASK arrangement which has hardly been used. The other is an IBM Selectric with CD (Classix Dvorak) arrangement which has been used more and has been well maintained.

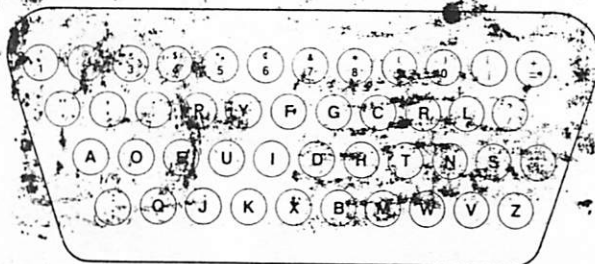
RoseSoft, Inc., Seattle, offers remap program

Please watch for an announcement, scheduled for 1983 October, of a broadly applicable program for rearranging the characters on computer keyboards. The source is RoseSoft, Inc., 4710 University Way Northeast, Suite 601, Seattle, Washington 98105.

Yamada in Computer, organ of the organized electronic engineers

See *Computer*, 1983 March, pages 80 and 81, for Hisao Yamada's landmark article, "The Dvorak simplified keyboard: Practice belies theory."

In it, the distinguished professor pokes gentle fun at investigators who publish conclusions without ever seating themselves at an alternate-arrangement keyboard, without pretraining or retraining even one operator, and without checking with people who do have some hands-on experience.



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